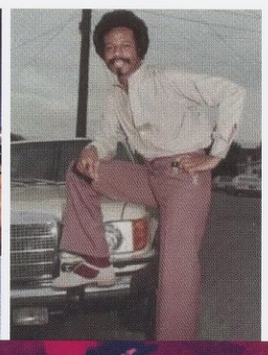
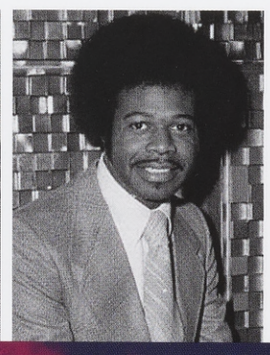
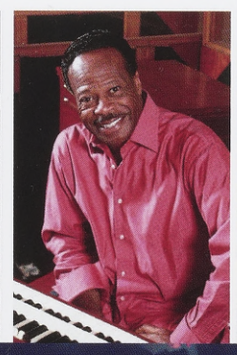


CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF THE LEGENDARY

EDWIN HAWKINS

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EDWIN HAWKINS



ORDER OF CELEBRATION

TUESDAY – FEBRUARY 6, 2018

FACILITATOR OF CEREMONY
Bishop Yvette Flunder
Pastor, City of Refuge United Church of Christ

OPENING TUNE / CALL TO WORSHIP
"Worship The Lord"
Edwin Hawkins Celebration Choir

PRAYER
Bishop Ross Garrison; Pastor,
Judah the Gathering Place

SCRIPTURE
Pastor Gregory Hunter
Olivet Institutional B C

GREETING
Pastor Kenneth Smith
Love Center Ministries

MUSICAL SELECTIONS
Edwin Hawkins Celebration Choir

REFLECTIONS

MUSICAL SELECTIONS
Edwin Hawkins Celebration Choir

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RESOLUTIONS

REFLECTIONS

MUSICAL SELECTION
Edwin Hawkins Celebration Choir

OFFERING
Bishop Keith L. Clark; General Overseer,
Word Assembly Family of Churches

FAMILY EXPRESSION
Siblings of Edwin Hawkins

INTRODUCTION OF THE "ORIGINAL EDWIN HAWKINS SINGERS"
Minister Richard Smallwood

MUSICAL SELECTION
Original Edwin Hawkins Singers

OBITUARY
Minister Richard Smallwood & Ms. Gloria King

REFLECTIONS

MUSICAL SELECTIONS
Edwin Hawkins Celebration Choir
Pastor Donnie McClurkin

MUSICAL SELECTION
"Oh Happy Day"

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL
"Oh Happy Day" (Reprise)



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF THE LEGENDARY

EDWIN HAWKINS



HISTORY

EDWIN REUBEN HAWKINS

SUNRISE AUGUST 19, 1943, OAKLAND, CA
SUNSET JANUARY 15, 2018, PLEASANTON, CA

"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord", Psalm 122

THE LIFE~THE EARLY YEARS

On August, 19, 1943 a little baby boy named Edwin Reuben Hawkins was born to the proud parents of Dan Lee and Mamie Vivian Hawkins. What would become of this special gift? Who could have imagined what he would become or the global impact he would have on the world? Coming from a very gifted family, His grandfather "Papa" played the piano and was an accomplished musician in his own right. So this gift seemed to spread through this family and by age 7 Edwin Hawkins had already become the pianist for his family. His siblings, Marva ("Toots"), Carol, Feddie, and Jarvis, ("Chubby"), were the voices to be heard and his younger siblings Daniel, Walter, and Lynette (affectionately called baby sis) would later join, showcasing their own individual talents and gifts. During the early 1950's he would play the piano as his family was requested to sing around the Bay Area at various local Baptist Churches. At that time the family was attending a church at 8th and Peralta presently known as Good Samaritan Cathedral Church of God In Christ. Their talent was quickly recognized and they were asked to sing on a local radio station KRE in Berkeley, California. As he continued to grow in his ministry of music Edwin soon became a sought after musician and was asked by his uncle, the late Elder Joe King Sr. to become the musician at Ephesian Church of God In Christ in Berkeley California.

In 1967 Edwin along with Betty Watson helped to organize a community choir known as the Northern California State Choir to perform at the National Youth Congress. From this community choir the Edwin Hawkins Singers was formed. Edwin rearranged a number of hymns and gospel standards for this recording, among them being "Jesus Lover of My Soul" ,"Joy Joy","I Heard the Voice" and "Oh Happy Day". The title of the album was "Let Us Go Into The House of the Lord" and was recorded live on a two track recorder at Ephesians Church of God in Christ in Berkley Ca. Five hundred copies were ordered, one of which fell into the hands of rock music DJ, Abe "Voco" Kesh at KSAN-FM radio. The song "Oh Happy Day" caught his ear and began to put it into heavy rotation. Oh Happy Day was the first gospel song in music history that crossed genre and racial lines. What became clear- was that a new SOUND from Heaven was coming that would be birthed through this yielded vessel. A sound that had a universal appeal, harmonies created uniquely to the Hawkins, that will never be replicated and yet always recognizable when you hear it. It went to No. 2 on the Billboard R&B charts, No. 4 on the Pop Charts, Number 2 on the UK Single pop charts, No. 1 in France, Germany and the Netherlands and won a Grammy in the best Soul Gospel category in 1970. In he sixties it was not surprising to hear the Beatles being played on a rock station, followed by the Edwin Hawkins Singers with Oh Happy Day. With songs that used Latin rhythms, amazing jazz harmonies, and progressions that were foreign to traditional church music, Edwin changed the face of gospel music which earned him the title "the father of contemporary gospel music". The LIGHT of Jesus Christ was once again revived during a period of time when in the late 60's and early 70's people in society were asking the question, "Is God Dead? The answer this time came through music, the year was 1969 and God had given Edwin an incredible arrangement to breathe life through an old 18th century hymn, "Oh Happy Day", when Jesus washed my sins away. The fire was lit, and Edwin who spent the early part of his career sitting behind the piano would soon come to the fore front, boldly taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. Breaking ground, a pioneer and trailblazer who had cut his own pattern and created a path of liberation that would transcend religion, cultural norms, and racial barriers. He became an anointed revolutionist ushering in a spiritual awakening. Even when Edwin was ridiculed and ostracized by the "church" he kept spreading the gospel in night clubs, theaters, The Hawkins Singers went into the hotels of Las Vegas, Yankee Stadium, TV shows such as American Bandstand, The Hollywood Palace and auditoriums all over the world carrying the message of the Gospel. Even today fifty years later, one cannot go to Europe to perform without singing "Oh Happy Day". It has become a classic and has been performed in countless of movies, plays, recorded by secular artist with even a cover by the late Elvis Presley. I remember Edwin saying that he had the opportunity to meet young people years later who had been at the Yankee Stadium concert who said they gave their lives to Christ because of his ministry that night. He literally went into the hedges and highways. Young musicians were inspired by him and began to take on his boldness in their writings, by using what some of the traditionalists called "unsaved" chords and progressions. But Edwin knew that God created music and every chord ever invented was to be used for His glory. He continued to record and the hits kept on coming, "Search Me Lord", "Praise Him", "All You Need" "Here's the Reason" "God, God My God","Give Us This Day" "God Will Take Care of You", "Wonderful" and so many more. Even as recent as 2011 the original "Oh Happy Day" reached No. 3 on Billboards Gospel Digital Songs sales chart. They went to different countries around the world, places in the Middle East, Europe, Asia, and South America, where ever he performed it was the Gospel of Jesus Christ thatwas lifted up and took center stage.





During this time there was a parallel process happening. There were marches in the street, Martin Luther King Jr. was fighting on the political stage for humanity and equal rights for all people and the timely messenger Edwin Hawkins, was writing songs like, "You Can't Please Everybody", "Everyman Wants To Be Free", "Look At The Trouble The World Is In".

THE LEGEND THE LEGACY

At home his family looked at him as "Daddy"- they frequently talk about his Love for beauty and the standard is - "look and be your best". Enjoying his wonderful cooking, the family reminisces about how he shared his culinary gifts in a restaurant, that he and his brother, Bishop Walter Hawkins created called "DeLite Hawkins Family Café" and through this venture Edwin memorialized some of his recipes in his cookbook, entitled, "Oh Happy Day" Cooking With Edwin Hawkins".

In all of his choirs, groups, & ensembles there were always family members including his cousins, Shirley Miller and Jeanie King. His charity of family was not just biological connections but was experienced by all that he came in contact with- Richard Smallwood said, "One of the most amazing things about one so gifted was Edwin's humble spirit and love for people."

Edwin had a dream of establishing a seminar where young people could come and learn about the arts, and be encouraged to use their God given talents. He had a trial run in San Francisco in 1979 and the response was overwhelming. In 1983 he established the annual Edwin Hawkins Music and Arts Seminar, with classes in songwriting, vocal techniques, gospel music history, piano techniques, the business of music, dance and drama. A mass choir was formed and recorded every year at the end of the week long seminar. The first Edwin Hawkins Music and Arts Seminar recording was released that year featuring Edwin's now famous arrangement of "Jesus I Love You" with Tramaine Hawkins on lead. The seminar is still alive and well and has given so many artists platforms such as John P Kee, Yolanda Adams, LaShun Pace Rhodes and Richard Smallwood just to name a few. In addition Edwin began traveling, recording and performing with his younger brother the late Bishop Walter Hawkins with sisters, Carol, Feddie, Lynette, sister in law Tramaine, cousin Shirley Miller, brother Daniel and nephew Joel Smith known as the Hawkins Family. With all that God called him to do he still worked diligently in his home church, Love Center which his baby brother Bishop Walter Hawkins had founded. The Hawkins name is royalty in gospel music, all starting with a young man who dared to be different, a young man in spite of obstacles from traditionalists became a pioneer and icon whose mark on gospel music is undisputed, a young man who loved God and whose heart was all about taking his music to people who may have never seen the inside of a church, a young man who was unselfish in sharing his gift, his platform and his wisdom with those coming along behind him, a young man whose music changed lives, changed the world and will continue to do so.

He was a suave and debonair man with a voice as smooth as Nat King Cole and Tony Bennett, a man that was meek but powerful–A man with Grace.

On January 15th 2018, the day we celebrated Martin Luther King's Birthday, a man of great purpose, who left an indelible mark on this planet was called home by God, Edwin's presence, his spirit, and gift will be sorely missed. However, he is at peace and has joined that cloud of witnesses who have gone on before. He has finished his purpose on this side and did it with excellence and integrity and his legacy will live on, not only from what he has left behind but what he has sown into others.

Edwin Hawkins leaves to cherish his memory three sisters, Carol, Feddie, Lynette; brother-in-law Reginold one brother, Daniel; and sister-in-law Marcy; one aunt: Mother Nadine Henderson; eleven nieces and nephews: Sharon Kemp, Otis LaDale Kemp, Dingaka Kemp, Joel Smith, Basil Smith, Marion Smith, Kimberly Smith, Jason Wright Jr., niece-in-law Dayna Robinson-Wright, Alyssa Hawkins, Pastor Walter "Jamie" Hawkins, neice-in-law Myiia "Sunny" Hawkins, Trystan Hawkins; six great nieces: Milan Kemp, Paisley-Joy Hawkins, Patience Hawkins, Lydia Hope Hawkins, Lundynn Wright, Jahve Hawkins; ten great nephews: Joshua Kemp, niece-in-law, Tay Kemp Tibari Devone-Kemp, Devin Kemp, , Joel Jayden Smith, Jason Wright III, Dayon Wright, Mekhi Wright, Jamie Daniel Hawkins, and Elijah Hawkins; two godchildren: Cameron Hasaan and Deshad Ali Khan; two honorary sons: Deshawn Little and Stabe Wilson; first cousins: The King Family; The Entire Matthews Family; Pittman Family; Shavers Family; Tillman Family, and a host of relatives and friends.

Oh Happy Day!



EDWIN HAWKINS







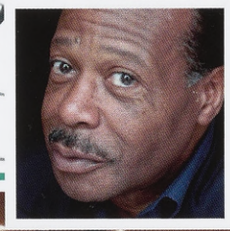














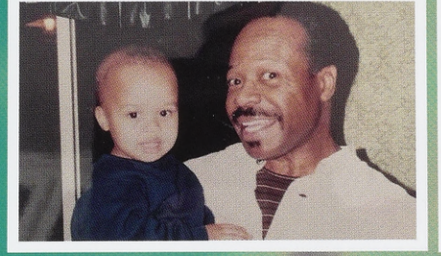




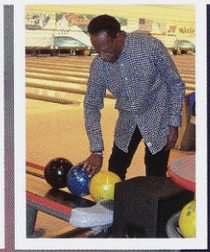






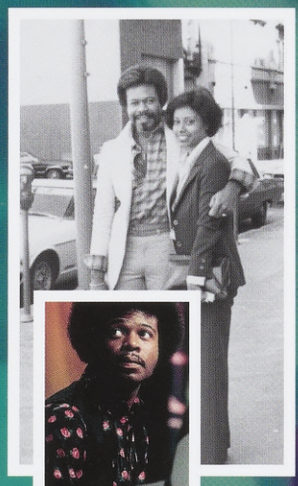




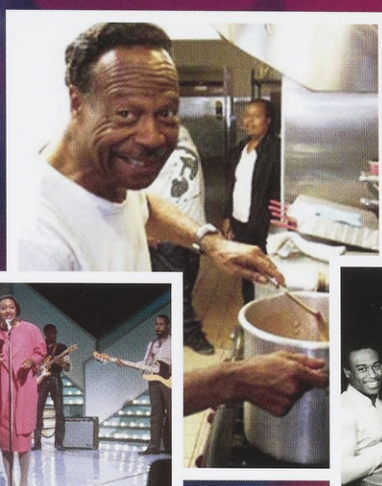


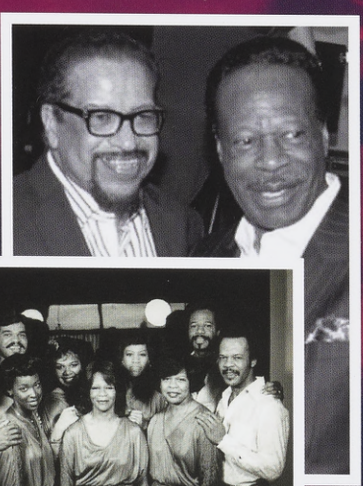


EDWIN HAWKINS













































CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF THE LEGENDARY

EDWIN HAWKINS

As we mourn the loss of our dear beloved brother, Uncle, nephew, cousin and friend. Our hearts are heavy with many emotions. Sorrow is missing him, joy in knowing his suffering has ended, gratitude for the time we were blessed to have him in our lives and hope in knowing we will one day see him again. We will miss his infectious smile and laughter, the holidays, birthdays and all the special moments spent with him...

To all extended Family and Friends,
We love you dearly and appreciate you for all your love, support and kind heartfelt expressions of sympathy, and for the comfort they bring. Please continue to keep our family in your prayers in the days to come.
With all our love,

The Hawkins Family

DESIGNED WITH LOVE BY JP DESIGNS ART